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Mark Twain's America Errata Sheet

The Library of Congress has determined and regrets that our regular and rigorous review processes were not followed in the editing of the recent publication "Mark Twain's America." The following credits and corrections have resulted from an ongoing cover-to-cover examination of the book. Should other errors be identified, they will be added to this list.

"A Personal Chronology," Timeline, pages 6 – 15:

The principal source for this information, used without attribution, is R. Kent Rasmussen, *Mark Twain A to Z: The Essential Reference to His Life and Writings* (New York: Facts on File, 1995)

Page 15, column 1:

The birth date of Nina Gabrilowitsch, Twain's granddaughter should be August 18, 1910, not April 18.

Chapter One – River of Dreams

Page 17 (picture caption): "... Clemens first saw the capital, in the 1850s ..."

Clemens's first visit was in 1854; it was a short visit of about 4 days.

Page 22 (col. 2, lines 8-11):

These lines should read: "Sam's mother, Jane Lampton Clemens, had two daughters, Pamela and Margaret, and four other sons, Orion, Pleasant, Benjamin, and Henry. Margaret died at age nine and Benjamin at age ten; Pleasant lived only three months."

Page 22 (picture caption):

Hannibal Journal should be *Hannibal Journal and Western Union*

Page 27 (line 24)

Joseph Arment should be Joseph Ament

Page 27 (lines 31-32):

Hannibal Journal should be *Hannibal Journal and Western Union*

Page 32 (col. 2, picture caption):

Sam persuaded his brother to join him as a mud clerk (more accurate than a "lowly worker") on the *Pennsylvania*

Page 35 (col. 2, line 6):

By 1873, they were living in Hartford, Connecticut, not Elmira, New York. (They did summer in Elmira.)

Page 38 (col. 2, line 2):

... finally as a pilot (not as a captain)

Page 41 (caption for illustration on left):

Cover by John T. Harley (not Daniel Beard)

Page 41 (caption for illustration on right):

Original sketch for the title page, artist unknown (not by Daniel Carter Beard)

Page 41 (col. 2, line 16-17):

Adventures of Huckleberry Finn was published in England in 1884; it was published in the United States in 1885.

Page 46 (picture caption, bottom left)

The photograph was taken in Redding, Connecticut, at Stormfield in 1908 (not 1902)
Laura Frazier should be Laura Frazer

Page 46 (picture caption, bottom right, lines 1 and 4)

Frazier should be Frazer

Page 47 (col. 1, line 16)

Frazier should be Frazer

Chapter Two – Western Swing

Page 54 (picture caption)

Slumgullion referred to a tea-like substance ... (not souplike stew)

Page 56 (col. 1, lines 19-20)

Change to read, “The Mormon religion had been established in April 1830 by Vermont-born New Yorker Joseph Smith.”

Page 56 (col. 2, lines 23-24)

In addition to one paragraph in the main text of *Roughing It*, Twain devoted all of Appendix B in the book to the Mountain Meadows Massacre.

Page 69 (col. 2, lines 7-9)

... earning twelve dollars weekly for work published in the *Golden Era*, to which Harte also contributed ... (Harte did not edit that paper)

Page 72 (col. 2, line 4)
Angel's Camp (not Angels Camp)

Page 76 (col. 1, line 8)
Angel's Camp (not Angels Camp)

Page 76 (col. 1, line 10)
New York *Saturday Press* (not *New York Sunday Press*)

Page 77 (col. 1, picture caption)
Angel's Camp (not Angels Camp)

Chapter Three – Trade Mark

Page 96 (short caption)
Attributed to Reginald T. Sperry (not True Williams)

Page 96 (long caption – reword as follows)
Mark Twain became synonymous with a jumping frog following the success of his 1865 short story and the subsequent 1867 publication, *The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County, and Other Sketches*. This colorful drawing by Reginald T. Sperry was the cover illustration for what was intended to be the first in a series of pamphlets of Twain's verbal sketches. Twain submitted the drawing to the U.S. Copyright Office, headquartered at the Library of Congress, with a handwritten note to Ainsworth Rand Spofford, the sixth Librarian of Congress. The pamphlet series was not successful.

Page 97 (col. 1, lines 14-15)
... some sixty-five fellow 'pilgrims' (not seventy, as estimates vary)

Page 101 (col. 1, line 25)
... bribing their way into the closed-off Parthenon ... (not breaking into)

Page 101 (col. 2, line 15)
Sepulchre (not Sepulcher)

Page 102 (col. 1, caption and line 1 of text)
Sepulchre (not Sepulcher)

Page 105 (col. 1, lines 24-26)
Delete "while on a sojourn in San Francisco's Occidental Hotel."
Corrected sentence: "Successfully securing copyrights, he finished the manuscript, editing the pages during the sea voyage back to New York in July 1868."

Page 108 (picture caption)
Photograph, circa 1871 (not 1880s)

Page 108 (col. 2, lines 5-8)

reword to read, "... moving into an elegant, fully furnished and staffed house in Buffalo, New York, a gift from her father, who lived in Elmira, 144 miles away."

Page 109 (caption, top picture)

The photograph was taken on the umbra, or porch of the Clemens's Hartford home, not in a gazebo.

Page 109 (picture at right)

The photograph is not of the Mark Twain House & Museum in Hartford, Connecticut. It is of the Katharine Seymour Day House in Hartford.

Page 109 (col. 2, last line)

But the Buffalo home (not the Elmira home)

Page 110 (picture caption)

First two lines of the caption should read as follows: "Quarry Farm outside Elmira, New York, owned by Livy's sister, Susan Langdon Crane, became a favorite retreat for Sam Clemens and his family. In an octagonal study built for him by Susan on a picturesque hill overlooking the Chemung River,"

Page 110 (col. 1, line 5)

"... the couple sold the Buffalo home ..." (not the Elmira home)

Page 114 (col. 2, line 7)

"... Col. Beriah Sellers, was based on his mother's cousin ..." (rather than a Clemens cousin)

Page 117 (col. 1, line 24)

"... and an educational game." (rather than "and educational games for children")

Page 117 (col. 2, lines 7-8)

Twain was a prominent member of the Players Club (now The Players). A brief history on that organization's website does not list him as a founder.

Page 118 (col. 1, line 9)

Twain wrote the humorous sketch about Eng and Chang Bunker in 1869 (not 1875)

Page 118 (col. 2, line 6)

Insert "In 1874 ..." before "on the strength of his earnings ..."

Page 119 (bottom caption, penultimate line)

1869 (not 1875)

Page 128 (caption for “*Mark Twain’s Library of Humor*”)

“... “... remains an important anthology of nineteenth-century American humor” (rather than an important source for some of Twain’s funniest writing)

Page 129 (col. 1, lines 4-5) and page 130 (caption)

As noted by Ben Griffith of the Mark Twain Project, current scholarship indicates that Twain and Cable were never billed as the Twins of Genius.

Chapter Four – American Oracle

Page 149: (col. 1, last sentence)

Change to read, “Longtime Clemens household maid Katy Leary recalled Clemens playing and singing black spirituals for Livy:” (Twain did not sing with a black congregation.)

Page 156 (col. 1, line 10)

Quarry Farm (not Quarry House)

Page 157 (picture caption)

Those in the picture are, from left to right: James Pond, Twain’s American tour manager; Olivia Langdon Clemens; Samuel Clemens; Clara Clemens; and Martha Pond.

Page 161 (picture caption)

The illustration should be dated 1889 (not 1891)

Page 161 (col. 2, lines 36-37)

Jean Clemens’s presence at Susy’s deathbed has not been confirmed by the authors. Household maid Katy Leary definitely was there.

Chapter Five – Twain’s Circle

Page 164 (col. 2, line 34)

According to Twain’s autobiography, the carriage ride took place on “a raw, cold morning” (not at night)

Page 165 (picture caption)

The photograph of Twain and John T. Lewis was taken in 1903 at Quarry Farm in Elmira, New York.

Page 166 (col. 1, line 22)

“In Hartford ...” (not In Elmira; Twain never lived in Elmira)

Page 166 (col. 1, lines 35-39)

It was not Twain's marriage into the Langdon family that introduced him to Joseph Twichell and the other Congregationalist ministers. He was introduced to Twichell by Elisha Bliss' wife in 1868. He was in proximity with Henry Ward Beecher at several points before meeting Olivia. Thomas K. Beecher, in Elmira, probably was the one minister who truly was brought into his sphere because of his courting and eventual marriage to Olivia.

Page 167 (col 1, line 7)

Thomas K Beecher (not Henry Ward Beecher)

Page 172 (col. 2, lines 1-3)

It should be noted that "The Mysterious Stranger" has a complex history. The version published in 1916 was heavily edited by Twain's friend Albert B. Paine and Harper editor Frederick A. Duneka.

Page 174 (picture caption)

According to Twain scholar Kevin Mac Donnell, the illustration is by Lucius Hitchcock (not Dan Beard)

Page 175 (col. 2, line 8)

Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (not *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*)

Page 180 (picture caption)

Photograph circa 1910 (it may have been taken a year or two earlier)

Additional Sources for material in Chapters One through Five:

Bloom, Harold, ed., *Mark Twain*. Philadelphia: Chelsea House, 2003.

Fisher, Shelley Fishkin, ed., *A Historical Guide to Mark Twain*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2002.

Hornburger, Theodore, ed., *Mark Twain's Letters to Will Bowen*. Austin, TX: University of Texas Press, 1941.

Lawton, Mary. *A Lifetime of Mark Twain: The Memories of Katy Leary*. New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company, 1925.

Rasmussen, R. Kent, ed., *Dear Mark Twain: Letters from His Readers*, annotated ed. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2013.

Schmidt, Barbara, <http://www.twainquotes.com>

Smith, Henry Nash, ed., *Mark Twain of the Enterprise*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1957.

Twain, Mark, *How to Tell a Story and Other Essays* online at Project Gutenberg,
<http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/3250>

____ *Mark Twain in Eruption: Hitherto Unpublished Pages about Men and Events*,
Bernard DeVoto, ed. New York: Harper, 1940.

____ *The Mysterious Stranger: A Romance*. New York: Harper & Bros., 1916.

<http://www.marktwainhannibal.com>

<http://twain.lib.virginia.edu>

“Mark Twain’s America” – timeline, pages 182-232

Three principal sources used for this work, without attribution, were:

James Trager, ed. *The People’s Chronology: A Year-by-Year Record of Human Events from Prehistory to the Present* (New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston) (various editions)

R. Kent Rasmussen, *Mark Twain A to Z: The Essential Reference to His Life and Writings* (New York: Facts on File, 1995)

“Slavery and the Making of America,” PBS timeline a <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/slavery/timeline/>

Page 182 (1835)

The Texas Declaration of Independence was formally adopted and issued in 1836 in Washington-on-the-Brazos; the first declaration, the Goliad Declaration, not the Texas Declaration, was signed in Goliad in 1835.

Page 182 (1836)

Inaccurate wording: Dickens’ *Pickwick Papers* begins serialization; it is published as a book in 1837. Its full title is *The Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club*.

Page 182 (1837)

Most sources give Sitting Bull’s birthdate as c. 1831 or c. 1831-37.

Page 185 (col. 2, 1840)

Inaccurate: Charles Darwin began developing his theory of evolution before 1840.

Page 186 (1841)

The first university bachelor's degrees were granted to women in the United States at Oberlin College in Ohio, which was not then accredited. See also p. 195 (col. 1, 1855): Elmira and Mary Sharp College granted degrees to women that were equivalent to those granted to men in 1855.

Page 190 (1847)

Incorrect year: Karl Marx publishes *The Communist Manifesto* in 1848.

Page 190 (col. 1, 1848)

Incorrect year: The United States did not annex Hawaii until 1898.

Page 192 (1851)

Incorrect year: Kate Chopin was born in 1850.

Page 195 (col. 1, 1855)

Additional information: Mary Sharp College, Winchester, Tennessee, also granted bachelor's degrees to women that year.

Page 196 (1858)

Incorrect year: Charles Darwin published *On the Origin of Species* in 1859.

Page 224 (1897)

Incorrect year: The United States annexed Hawaii in 1898.

Page 225 (col. 1, 1898)

Incomplete/inaccurate statement: The United States did, in fact, annex Hawaii this year, not simply propose to do so.

Page 226 (col. 1, 1900)

Incomplete/inaccurate statement: Hawaii officially became a U.S. territory with the creation of a territorial government.